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Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. My name is William J. Boucher and I am a Special Agent with the Liquor Division of the Department of Consumer Protection and I'm here today to speak in support of Raised Bill-6407, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSAULT OF A LIQUOR CONTROL AGENT.

During the course of their duties the Liquor Control Agents are placed in dangerous situations with little to no, legislative protection. They are often work at night in bars and cafes in some of the worst areas of the State, dealing with drunkards, drug dealers, gang members, known felons and other individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverage, illegal gambling, prostitution and other illegal activities.


During the course of their duties the Liquor Agents often work alongside members of both the State and local police departments who are covered by this Act, yet the Liquor Agents, who are exposed to the same dangers and threats, are not covered. As a matter of fact, the state job specification for the Liquor Agents specifically states that they "may be exposed to threatening situations in the conduct of investigations" and are required by their agency to wear bullet proof vests whenever they are in the field.

Having been a Liquor Control Agent for approximately 26 years, I have firsthand knowledge of the fact the Liquor Control Agents have been assaulted when brawls have occurred while they were conducting investigations. Liquor Agents have also been assaulted by intoxicated patrons during the course of their duties. They have been spit on, pushed, kicked and had beer bottles thrown at them. The often work in dangerous situations where they need to place themselves in harm's way in order to perform their duties. I have been personally involved in investigations where I have encountered liquor permittees and their employees who have been armed with hand guns and other dangerous weapons and have threaten me and the Liquor Agents working with me.

In summation, I feel that it is important that Sec. 53a-167c be amended to include the Liquor Control Agents in the protected classifications. These public safety professionals are on the front line enforcing the State laws and regulations with regards to the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages and they are often times placed in dangerous situations in the performance of these duties. This proposed amendment will go a long way in making their job safer; it will serve as a deterrent to would be assailants by sending a strong message that there is a severe penalty for their actions.

If any of the members of this Committee have any questions or require any additional information regarding my testimony, I am prepared to provide you with any assistance I can.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. Boucher".

William J. Boucher